4. Trend Analysis Summary

For most air pollutants, monitoring has found long-term declines in North Carolina. Levels of particulates, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and lead in ambient air have dropped substantially since the 1970s. Long term trends are less clear for ozone and nitrogen dioxide, both of which have remained fairly constant. Acid precipitation, as shown by pH, has shown a moderate increase since the 1970s. The numerical increase in pH signifies *decreasing* acidity, which is consistent with the ambient concentration trends.

A summary of concentration trends for major air pollutants during specific ranges of years is shown in **Table 2** on page 8. Arrows indicate *statistically significant* trends. ANo change@ means that the trend is not statistically significant, not necessarily that the data are constant.